



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Legacy
Management

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PROGRAM UPDATE



DOE Environmental
Justice Program Manager
Melinda Downing Receives
Honorary Doctorate from
Allen University

New Mound Cold
War Discovery Center
Opens for Visitors

LM Acquires Office
Building in Grand
Junction, Colorado

Director's Corner



Dear *Program Update* Readers,

In early April, I had the opportunity to tour a number of Defense-Related Uranium Mine (DRUM) sites with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) Uranium Mine Team and LM Director of Site Operations David Shafer. These mines are located on U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)-administered land in southwest Colorado near the towns of Uravan and Naturita, an area with a rich uranium mining and milling history. We visited mines, including the Triangulation Mine, with structures that pose physical hazards to people recreating in the area and unreclaimed waste rock piles that pose potential chemical risks to the surrounding environment. We also visited the Long Park 13 Mine, which presents no hazards or risks because its adit (horizontal access passage to a mine) has been closed and its waste pile reclaimed.

In October 2016, LM implemented the DRUM program to verify and validate (V&V) the condition of 2,500 uranium mines on federal public lands by 2022. The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (DOE's predecessor agency) purchased ore from these mines for national defense purposes between 1947 and 1970. After production ended, the majority of these mines were abandoned.

The primary objectives of this program are to determine the current condition of the mines and to identify whether they pose physical hazards and risks to human health and the environment. This is achieved by conducting the following V&V activities:

- Reconciling the locations of the mines using historical records
- Determining the status of reclamation or remediation at the mines
- Collecting data on features, such as adits, shafts, and waste piles
- Performing radiological walkover surveys

- Collecting soil and water samples
- Producing V&V reports that summarize field results and provide rankings of physical hazards and potential chemical and radiological risks

Another key component of the DRUM program is LM's partnerships with the BLM, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and state abandoned mine lands (AML) programs. BLM and USFS offer valuable land management expertise that has guided our efforts on federal public lands, and state AML programs have contributed their expertise by inventorying mines on both public and private land.

During my tour, I had the pleasure of meeting with a few of our partners from the BLM Colorado State Office and Uncompahgre Field Office. We discussed how the DRUM program will benefit our agencies and the public. By conducting V&V activities, we are able to identify mines posing the greatest physical hazards, which BLM can subsequently address by closing, reclaiming, remediating, or installing fencing and signage to mitigate risk—all of which protect the public.

To date, LM has completed V&V of 669 mines and we are well on our way to achieving our 2022 V&V goal. Our initial screenings demonstrate that the majority of mines pose no or low radiological and chemical risks, although most pose physical hazards.

For more information about LM's DRUM program, please visit <https://www.energy.gov/lm/defense-related-uranium-mines-program>.

Respectfully,

Carmelo
Carmelo

LM Goals

- 

1 Protect Human Health and the Environment
- 

2 Preserve, Protect, and Share Records and Information
- 

3 Safeguard Former Contractor Workers Retirement Benefits
- 

4 Sustainably Manage and Optimize the Use of Land and Assets
- 

5 Sustain Management Excellence
- 

6 Engage the Public, Governments, and Interested Parties

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Cover: Melinda Downing, DOE Environmental Justice Program Manager accepts her honorary doctorate from Allen University president, Dr. Ernest McNealy.



Melinda Downing Receives Honorary Doctorate from Allen University

On May 12, Melinda Downing, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Environmental Justice (EJ) Program Manager, received an honorary doctorate from Allen University in Columbia, South Carolina, in recognition of her EJ achievements and her dedication as a public servant throughout her more than 40-year federal career.

In February 1994, President William J. Clinton signed Executive Order 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*. Since that time Downing has spearheaded DOE's EJ efforts in both unofficial and official capacities.

- Managing the DOE Mentors for Environmental Scholars Program
- Supporting the Congressional Black Caucus Environmental Justice Braintrust



Melinda Downing speaks after receiving her honorary doctorate.



Melinda Downing (left) joins the processional to receive her honorary doctorate degree from Allen University.

Some of Downing's specific EJ accomplishments include:

- Actively managing programs and projects that bring together DOE site managers, local governments, and advocacy groups to address DOE Office of Legacy Management (LM)-related issues
- Promoting the Community Leaders Institute, Community Capacity Building Through Technology, and Community Education and Advisory Project
- Building on LM's collaboration and partnerships with American Indian tribes and Alaska Natives
- Coordinating the annual Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program, which serves as a forum for community leaders, government representatives, tribes, faith-based organizations, and others on EJ challenges and best practices

In addition to these accomplishments, as well as serving as the DOE senior staff representative on the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice, Downing conducted public participation EJ and tribal training for DOE federal and contractor personnel throughout DOE, and coordinated three made-for-TV dialogues about environmental impacts on vulnerable populations.

Dr. Ernest McNealy, president of Allen University, stated, "[Downing] has been a stellar servant-leader in governmental affairs for some 35 years . . . a champion for the full participation of minority-serving institutions and the students that they serve in programs and funding at the Department of Energy."

LM Director Carmelo Melendez also lauded Downing for her EJ accomplishments and described her as "One of the finest public servants I have had the privilege to learn from in my 30 years of federal service." ❖



LM Acquires Office Building in Grand Junction, Colorado

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) in Grand Junction, Colorado, acquired an 18,900-square-foot building on April 11, 2018, through a no-cost federal-to-federal transfer that maximized resources to meet LM's increasing workload.

"Any real property acquisition is complicated," said LM Director Carmelo Melendez. "Especially federal-to-federal transfers for office, warehouse, and industrial spaces. We were very fortunate to complete this transfer in less than two years and at no cost, saving hundreds of thousands of dollars, which will be allocated toward our current mission goals." The building appraised at \$1.4 million.

Building 7 was built on a 55.7-acre campus in 1951 as a sampling plant for the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission's Colorado Raw Materials Office. The land was originally purchased by the U.S. Government in 1943 for a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Manhattan Project uranium refinery.

In 2001, DOE transferred most of the Grand Junction campus to Riverview Technology Corporation (RTC), a business-development nonprofit. LM continues to work from leased space on site. DOE remediated—at a cost of about \$1 million—and transferred Building 7 and nearly eight acres to the U.S. Army Reserve. The 244th Engineer Battalion, Company A, Detachment 1, occupied the building until 2015. It has been empty since that time.

"We are committed to the mission of the dedicated men and women of the combined LM/LM Support (LMS) contractor team at the historical Grand Junction site," Melendez said. "That is

why when the opportunity and the need aligned, the federal and contractor partner staffs did not waste any time in moving forward deliberately to secure this facility as soon as possible."

Bud Sokolovich, LM Asset Management Team lead, said the next step for utilizing Building 7 is to develop a master plan that integrates with existing walkways and greenspaces. "We want to partner and make that whole campus successful as much as we can," he said of the larger RTC campus. "That's the vision for the future."

LM is working with USACE to execute an Interagency Agreement to contract for the design and renovation of Building 7 to include a master plan, said Polly Robinson, LM realty specialist.

Melendez said the additional space fills a pressing need.

"The acquisition of this building is important because it provides additional workspace for LM's mission in the Grand Junction office, which has increased over the years as expected," Melendez said. "We have gone from managing 33 legacy sites to 92 legacy sites, and will soon manage 96 sites. This workspace will provide the combined LM and LMS team suitable space now and in the future."

Some 270 LM and LMS staff work at the Grand Junction office site, with more hires expected. Operations include long-term surveillance and maintenance of legacy sites, and the Defense-Related Uranium Mine (DRUM) Program, which works in cooperation with federal land management agencies and state abandoned mine lands programs to verify and validate the condition of 2,500 DRUM sites by 2022. ❖



Left: The 244th Engineer Battalion, Company A, Detachment 1, occupied Building 7 until 2015. Center: G. Earle Gardner, area facility operations specialist for U.S. Army Reserve contractor Versar, hands over the keys to Building 7 to Polly Robinson, LM realty specialist. Right: G. Earle Gardner (right) leads a tour of Building 7 for LM and LMS staff and the Maintenance Manager for The Business Incubator Center.



LM Director Visits East Coast Sites

In May 2018, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) officials visited six active East Coast sites included in the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP).

DOE Office of Legacy Management (LM) Director Carmelo Melendez and LM Site Operations Director David Shafer joined other DOE and USACE staff to tour active FUSRAP sites that will eventually be transferred to LM for long-term stewardship. Active FUSRAP sites are those sites that are currently undergoing USACE cleanup operations.

DOE established FUSRAP in 1974 to remediate sites where radioactive contamination remained from early government operations that used radioactive materials. DOE remediated 25 sites by 1997, at which time Congress directed USACE to remediate the remaining 21 designated FUSRAP sites.

The site visits included tours and meetings with USACE staff and other stakeholders at the following sites:

Privately owned sites:

- W.R. Grace (Curtis Bay, Maryland)
- DuPont Chambers Works (Deepwater, New Jersey)
- Middlesex Municipal Landfill (Middlesex North, New Jersey)

Government-owned sites:

- Colonie Interim Storage Site (Colonie, New York)
- Maywood Chemical Superfund Site (Maywood, New Jersey)
- Middlesex Sampling Plant (Middlesex South, New Jersey)



USACE participants included managers and technical staff from three districts, the North Atlantic Division, and USACE headquarters. LM staff included site managers from the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act/Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act/FUSRAP Team, Asset Management Team, and the Senior Realty Officer. Other stakeholders, such as the owners of the private sites and the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, participated in site-specific meetings.

Continued on page 7

LM Director Visits East Coast Sites

The Colonie, New York, site is composed of the 11.2-acre Main Site and 56 vicinity properties (VPs). Under a license issued by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), the site handled enriched uranium from 1960 to 1972. By 2007, soil remediation was complete and a plan for groundwater remediation was implemented. The federally owned site is scheduled to transfer to LM before the end of fiscal year (FY) 2020, after USACE work at the site has been completed and the site is being transitioned to LM for long-term stewardship. The tour provided beneficial information on the status of the site and the locations of environmental easements, which will be placed on the site before it becomes available for redevelopment.

The Maywood, New Jersey, site consists of 92 private and government-owned properties. Site transfer to LM is projected to occur by 2026. Contamination resulted from rare earth and thorium processing activities conducted from the early 1900s through 1959. As of May 2017, 89 properties have been remediated, a process that involved remediation of more than 600,000 cubic yards of soil. Also, a long-term groundwater monitoring program has been implemented. Remediation continues at three properties. Discussions with USACE regarding the site will facilitate planning for the long-term stewardship of the property and management of inaccessible soils beneath area roadways.

The Middlesex North and Middlesex South, New Jersey, sites encompass a 37-acre municipal landfill and a 9.6-acre, federally owned site with 36 VPs, respectively. The Middlesex South site contained the Middlesex Sampling Plant, which

sampled, stored, and shipped uranium, thorium, and beryllium ores. Contaminated fill from the plant was placed in the landfill in the 1940s. Recently, a soil sorting pilot study was initiated to support the feasibility study for the Middlesex North site. At the Middlesex South site, soils have been remediated, groundwater contamination has been characterized, and a proposed plan for final groundwater remediation is being completed.

The Deepwater, New Jersey and Curtis Bay, Maryland site tours provided valuable planning updates regarding current conditions, cleanup status, and updated completion schedules. The Deepwater site encompasses a 700-acre active chemical manufacturing facility. In 1942, the site launched uranium processing activities for the USACE Manhattan Engineer District. Soil remediation is expected to be completed within the next four years, followed by long-term monitoring of groundwater. At the Curtis Bay site, thorium processing took place under an AEC license in 1956 and 1957. This process occurred in Building 23, which is still in active use. Waste materials from the processing operations were disposed of on-site in the Radioactive Waste Disposal Area. The site is being remediated by the current owner with USACE oversight. Estimated site transfer to LM will occur by FY 2024.

Ultimately, the site tours enhanced participants' perspectives on long-term stewardship needs and site disposition opportunities, and served to further strengthen the working relationship between LM and USACE. These activities will assist in ensuring timely and seamless site transfers to LM while supporting our mission to protect human health and the environment. ❖

LM is continually seeking opportunities to protect the environment and conserve natural resources. One simple step we can take toward improving environmental consciousness is to distribute the *Program Update* newsletter by email instead of sending a printed copy.

Please send your email address and your first and last names to lm@hq.doe.gov so that we can update our database.

Thank you for your assistance.





LM Connects with Students During STEM-Sation Day Event

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) and LM Support (LMS) contractor, Navarro Research and Engineering, Inc., engaged students in the second Navajo Nation “STEM-sation Day” on April 5, 2018, at Greyhills Academy High School in Tuba City, Arizona. STEM-sation Day promotes science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) studies and careers for Navajo high school students. Approximately 210 students participated in the event.

LM set up a STEM booth that provided information on the former Rare Metals Uranium Mill Site (now known as the Tuba City, Arizona, Disposal Site), which is located 5 miles east of the tribal communities of Tuba City and Moenkopi, Arizona.

At the LM booth, students learned about groundwater cleanup and disposal cell construction and monitoring. A physical 3-D model of the Tuba City site groundwater contaminant plume was a hit with the students. The model illustrated the uranium concentrations and area and depth of the plume relative to the disposal cell and the site’s evaporation pond. A GPS satellite signal receiver was set up for students to learn about the accuracy of the internal software computations at various DOE sites relative to multiple satellite signals received from space.

The STEM event was organized by the Navajo Nation Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation/Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Department and the Navajo Transitional Energy Company.

“It was exhilarating to see so many Navajo professionals in the STEM fields. I hope the students realized they don’t have to go to the big cities to find quality jobs near home,” stated Nathan J. Tohtsoni, education coordinator for Navajo Transitional Energy Company. “I knew we were doing something right when we started to see the same students’ faces over and over again throughout the day—they kept returning to learn more.”

The first STEM-sation Day event took place at Shiprock High School in March 2018. More than 580 ninth to 12th grade science students participated in the event. The two event locations were selected, in part, because of the nearby former uranium mill tailings sites that LM manages.



LMS staff stand with the Navajo Nation Vice President (middle) during the April 5 STEM-sation Day at Greyhills Academy High School in Tuba City, Arizona.

The former uranium ore processing mill operated between 1956 and 1966 and resulted in uranium contamination at the site. In 1988, DOE remediated contaminated materials from the former mill operation, including mill tailings, building materials, and windblown contamination. The contaminated materials were encapsulated in a disposal cell located on the site.

LM continues to address remaining groundwater contamination to ensure the protection of human health and the environment. An important part of LM's mission is to partner with tribal communities within the Navajo Nation.

Additional information on the Tuba City site is available on the LM website: <https://www.lm.doe.gov/tuba/Sites.aspx>. ❖



LM Participates in 17th Annual DOE Small Business Forum & Expo



The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) hosted the 17th Annual DOE Small Business Forum & Expo, May 22 through 24, 2018, in Houston, Texas. The Department designed this event to enable interactive networking for small

businesses to showcase expertise and strengths while learning about future DOE contracting opportunities and processes. Representatives from the DOE Office of Legacy Management (LM) participated in the Forum's expo and provided attendees an opportunity to engage and learn more about LM.

The creativity and innovation of entrepreneurs and small business communities is critical to fulfilling the DOE mission. Over the past three years, the Department has obligated over \$20 billion to American small businesses, more than any other civilian agency. DOE steered more than \$6.1 billion toward small businesses in fiscal year (FY) 2017, in both prime contracts and subcontracts, earning the DOE a third straight "A" grade from the Small Business Administration. Last year alone, DOE procured nearly 14 percent of contracts with small businesses and is on track for even more growth this year.

DOE Secretary Rick Perry stated in his welcome letter to attendees, "This year's Business Forum & Expo aims to build on the success DOE has had partnering the federal government with small businesses to advance scientific research and development, creating a more secure energy future for the nation and our allies." Secretary Perry expanded on these

sentiments in his well-received keynote speech on the Forum's closing day.

The three-day agenda featured more than 30 breakout sessions, panel discussions, networking receptions, one-on-one matchmaking, and an expo featuring over 100 vendors and government agencies. OSDBU also showcased its FY 2017 Annual Small Business Awards Program. Awards were given to DOE program offices and staff, power administrations, facility management contractors, small business program managers, and small businesses that demonstrated exceptional performance during FY 2017.

Small businesses power our economy, and more than half of all Americans either own or work for a small business. DOE is proud to contribute to the small business workforce and economy. Through welcomed and continued engagement, small businesses play a crucial role in solving our nation's science, energy, and national security challenges.

For more information about the DOE Small Business Forum & Expo and for a full list of award recipients, please visit: <https://www.energy.gov/osdbu/smallbusinessconference/small-business-conference>. ❖

Left: LM staff provide opportunities to learn more about LM during the Forum's expo. Center: LM and stakeholders engage during the Forum's expo. Right: DOE Secretary Rick Perry with LM and DOE staff after his keynote speech.



Birders Enjoy Rare Sightings at Fernald Preserve



The black-bellied whistling duck is typically found only in the southern United States. It prefers tree cavities for nesting and makes a distinctly clear whistling sound.

During the spring of 2018, the Fernald Preserve, Ohio, Site was visited by a number of migrant birds rarely seen in Ohio. A black-bellied whistling duck was spotted by Fernald Preserve employees in mid-April. The unusual feathered guest remained in the area into mid-May, attracting numerous visitors who came to catch a glimpse and photograph it.

Black-bellied whistling ducks are native to Central and South America, and typically are only found along the Gulf Coast of the United States. This rare visitor was pushed farther north by a cold front that moved from the Southwest into the Ohio Valley, bringing not only this unexpected avian guest to Fernald but also at least three other birds that are rarely seen in Ohio. Birders in the region enjoyed a rare look at a painted bunting, a white-winged dove, and a black-throated gray warbler, all hailing from the West and Southwest.

At the end of April, more excitement arrived at the Fernald Preserve when a visiting birder discovered a clay-colored sparrow. The elusive bird was found in the restored grasslands near the Visitors Center. The sparrow, another bird from the West that seldom appears in Ohio, was a first for the site.

The sightings of the black-bellied whistling duck and clay-colored sparrow bring the list of bird species recorded at the Fernald Preserve up to 248. The 1,050-acre Fernald Preserve has been environmentally remediated and ecologically restored. The Preserve features 7 miles of hiking trails as well as wildlife observation areas that have been open to the public since 2008. The Visitors Center shares the story of the site, including both its history and current condition, including site remediation and ecological restoration of wildlife habitat. ❖



LM Headquarters Employees Participate in Earth Week

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) Washington, DC, office participated in the annual Earth Week events at DOE Headquarters this past April.

Josh Silverman, director of the Office of Environmental Protection and Environmental Safety and Health, kicked off Earth Week in the Forrestal Building auditorium with remarks on the relation between environmental conservation and sustainability and the Department's history and mission.

Patrick Wojahn, director of government relations for the Rails to Trails Conservancy, spoke about his organization's mission to connect communities around the country by repurposing old railroad tracks into biking and walking trails. Michael Stachowicz, turf specialist for the National Park Service (NPS), provided an update on NPS's efforts to sustainably rebuild the National Mall.

Representatives from the Washington Area Bicyclist Association were also present at the kickoff event to discuss bike commuting options, and employees from LimeBike and Spin, two new "dockless" bicycle vendors in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area, demonstrated dockless bike technology.

Other highlights from the week included a walking tour centered on sustainable design features of The Wharf, one of DC's newest destinations for dining, shopping, and entertainment in the historic Southwest Waterfront neighborhood; an Earth Day haiku contest; and the annual Earth Day photo contest.

Participation in DOE's Earth Week events aligns with LM's ongoing commitment to protect human health and the environment. ✦



LM employees Tony Carter and Padraic Benson learn about sustainable design at The Wharf.



LM Celebrates Earth Day Across the Complex

Every day is Earth Day. After all, there is no planet B.

During a week-long series of events centered on Earth Day, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) and LM Support (LMS) employees at offices in Morgantown, West Virginia, and Westminster and Grand Junction, Colorado, demonstrated their commitment to protecting the environment.

On **Monday, April 16**, employees were asked to “reduce, reuse, and recycle.” As part of an e-cycling event, employees brought in electronic waste from home for recycling. Old electronics contain many toxic materials, such as arsenic, lead, and cadmium. In a landfill, those materials can potentially leak into the ecosystem, contaminating water resources and harming plant and animal life.

Employees were also asked to bring in plastic bags for recycling. The typical plastic bags used to carry groceries break down slowly and can remain in a landfill for hundreds of years.



Grand Junction LMS employee Linda Sheader shows off the solar panels she uses to provide electricity for her home.



Kyle Turley, an LMS employee at the Grand Junction, Colorado, office, stands next to the solar panels he uses to keep his home off the energy grid.

In addition, LM and LMS employees brought in old prescription glasses they no longer use, but which could be reused by those in need. Instead of sitting in a drawer at home, the glasses now have a home with someone who cannot afford to buy new glasses.

LM designated **Tuesday, April 17**, as “Trash Tuesday.” Many employees participated in local trash cleanups in their communities. Some employees chose to conduct their own trash cleanups around the office and collected old paper, office supplies, and binders that could be recycled.

During a **Wednesday, April 18**, “Earth Day – Lunch and Learn” event, LM employees were invited to watch two short YouTube videos about the harmful effects of plastic on the environment.

“What Really Happens to the Plastic You Throw Away - Emma Bryce”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_6xINyWPpB8

“The Monumental Effort to Rid the World's Oceans from Plastic: VICE on HBO, Full Episode”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74YQWthFz8g>

On **Thursday, April 19**, employees were encouraged to avoid printing during “No Print Thursday.” Avoiding printing for just this one day resulted in a 25 percent reduction in paper usage.

To top off the week, employees were invited to participate in an Earth Day contest for which they submitted “going green” activities that they or their colleagues participated in to promote Earth Week. Randomly selected winners each received a DOE 2018 Earth Day travel mug. ❖



LM Embraces Energy Data Exchange for Scientific Collaboration

An online tool that supports energy-related research is helping the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) collaborate with the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL).

In 2011, the DOE National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) initiated the Energy Data eXchange (EDX, <https://edx.netl.doe.gov/>), an online collection of capabilities and resources developed to support a range of energy-related research. EDX supports a variety of research needs by ensuring: (1) long-term curation of both historic and current data and information from a wide variety of sources; (2) reliable access to research that crosscuts multiple projects and programs and energy science needs; (3) efficient discovery of data and information; and (4) innovative analytics to support today's research needs, including secure collaboration and coordination between various agencies, organizations, and institutions through the EDX Collaborative Workspaces.

EDX has both a public and private interface to facilitate external and internal access to research that crosscuts multiple projects and programs. The public side of EDX supports discovery and access to publicly available data from authoritative, external sources. The private side of EDX supports research collaboration and coordination using role-based security privileges and

access rights. These secure collaborative workspaces allow designated EDX members access to both restricted and open research data, while providing a secure workspace for sharing and developing innovative research and technology.

In partnership with NETL and administered by LM, a collaborative workspace was set up for LM and SRNL to share information. The intuitive user interface and helpful, automated support makes organizing, uploading, and downloading information easy. Users contribute data and resources to EDX rapidly through a simple and streamlined process. The process helps describe data in EDX, noting key attributes, characteristics, and keywords that serve as the building blocks EDX utilizes to compile search results.

Providing thorough and accurate submission information enhances discoverable, visible, and usable resources in EDX. Datasets physically housed within EDX are provided by users either as links to external websites, or when appropriate, as stand-alone files. Even with larger pieces of information, data access is smooth and efficient. At this point only the information sharing functionality has been explored, and both LM and SRNL are excited to explore additional tools that NETL's EDX has to offer. ♦

Search
Explore Energy Data

Contribute
Share with the community

Search publicly available energy data contributions for coal, oil, pipelines and more. Search by keywords, files type, spatial location or groups.

Collaborate
Securely in a private sharing environment with your research team
Create a private workspace

EDX is NETL's Data Driven Tool for Science-Based Decision Making

LM is now collaborating with the Savannah River National Laboratory in the use of the Energy Data eXchange, a new online data sharing tool developed by the National Energy Technology Laboratory.



Environmental Justice Activities

2018 National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program

More than 600 people attended the 12th National Environmental Justice Conference (NEJC) and Training Program in Washington, DC, April 25 through 27, 2018. The overall theme of the conference was “Enhancing Communities through Capacity Building and Technical Assistance,” with the subtheme, “Justice, Equality, and Equity for our Youth and Future Generations.” The three-day conference was filled with rousing speeches and thought-provoking panels and workshops that offered attendees the opportunity to meet youth leaders, activists, and others from across the country who are committed to the principles of environmental justice (EJ).

The conference featured numerous speaker panels and technical assistance workshops, including a Grant Writing Workshop, Title VI Workshop, and Community Guide to Environmental Justice and the National Environmental Policy Act. All of the workshops were geared toward government employees as well as nonprofit and educational attendees.



Melinda Downing (second from right) with the 2018 National Environmental Justice Conference award recipients: Clarence Brown (left), coordinator for Mentoring for Environmental Scholars program at Pre-College University; Donna Christensen (second from left), former U.S. Representative from the U.S. Virgin Islands; Carolyn Sawyer (right), communications strategist with the Tom Sawyer Company.

The Honorable James E. Clyburn, U.S. Representative for South Carolina, set the stage for the conference with a keynote address. Congressman Clyburn discussed the nationwide safe

drinking water issue. He advocated for the need to recognize the unique relationship between the quality of our environment, the health of U.S. citizens, and the economic well-being of the nation. Congressman Clyburn's main takeaway was that people are too often focused on the treatment of problems, such as the issue of drinking water, rather than focusing on actual solutions.

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) Director Carmelo Melendez also delivered a keynote address during the conference. Director Melendez reiterated DOE's commitment to fully integrate EJ into programs and activities via the Department's new EJ strategy and the second EJ Five-Year Implementation Plan, which details the goals and objectives as well as the execution of the strategy.



LM Director Carmelo Melendez gives a keynote address at the 2018 National Environmental Justice Conference.

In closing, Director Melendez said, “If I could send you off with one big take-away, it would be this: we can reduce environmental injustice. Together, we can increase meaningful involvement and fair treatment.”

The conference concluded with the annual Hero and Shero awards. The recipients were Carolyn Sawyer, a long-time NEJC facilitator; Donna M. Christensen, former U.S. Representative from the U.S. Virgin Islands and long-time NEJC supporter; and Clarence Brown, the Mentoring for Environmental Scholars Program Coordinator for Pre-College University. ❖

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Environmental Justice Activities

11th Annual National Conference on Health Disparities

Melinda Downing, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) Environmental Justice (EJ) program manager, provided remarks at the 11th National Conference on Health Disparities, held May 16 through 19, 2018, in Philadelphia. The theme of this year's conference was "National Dialogue for Building Healthy Communities."

The annual conference is an outgrowth of a 2007 health disparities conference held in Charleston, South Carolina, which was sponsored by the Medical University of South Carolina and the National Center on Minority Health. The annual conference is founded on the concept that health disparities, revealed through differences in health status and outcomes based on race and economic standing, impact all Americans. The conferences have focused on ways to reduce and eliminate health disparities across the nation.



Panel discussion, including (L–R) Health Policy Advisor Mia Keays, Congresswoman Robin Kelly, Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester, Congressman James Clyburn, and Congressman Dwight Evans, at the 2018 National Health Disparities Conference.



Winners of the Student Research Forum at the 2018 National Health Disparities Conference.

This year's conference concentrated on current events and lessons learned from previous conferences. Among topics drawn from recent headlines were: gun violence as a major public health issue, the opioid crisis in America, and the wide-ranging impacts of climate change and catastrophic weather events on communities nationwide.

While current events were the focus of the conference, the broader context of previous conferences remained. The three overriding themes were: 1) the role played by the social determinants of health, including poverty, race, environmental quality, housing, educational attainment, and public safety; 2) personal responsibility, including choices pertaining to individual and community health; and 3) prevention, addressed by proactive programs that improve individual and community health while saving lives and decreasing costs in developing and sustaining healthy communities.

Conference participants and presenters discussed potential solutions, reviewed program best practices, and recommended policies to strengthen and enhance the current healthcare system through diverse, multidisciplinary partnerships and perspectives. Conference participants were offered the chance to interact in a wide variety of settings, from a student forum with poster presentations and panel sessions on specific topics, to a roundtable discussion with congressional leaders. A conference summation declared this as the time for bold action and consensus, bringing together scientists, lawmakers, philanthropists, clergy, and others to find solutions to critical issues. ❖

Mentoring for Environmental Scholars Holds Orientation and Boot Camp at National Training Conference Center

Pre-College University and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) conducted a five-day orientation from May 29 to June 1, 2018, for 18 students from minority-serving institutions (MSIs) and tribal colleges and universities who will work as summer interns at DOE laboratories.

Mentors for Environmental Scholars (MES) is a 10-week, paid summer internship that provides underrepresented college students with experience in laboratory research in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). MES actively recruits qualified undergraduates from historically

Continued on page 16

Environmental Justice Activities

black colleges and universities, tribal colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, and other MSIs for extensive training that will guide them toward opportunities for employment in various STEM and management positions within DOE.

The goal of the orientation and boot camp is to familiarize interns with the field of environmental justice; provide professional development trainings, including team building and project management training; and introduce the young scholars to some of the key individuals at DOE Headquarters.



At the end of the camp, interns presented their proposed research projects that they will undertake at their respective laboratories during their internship. ♦



Above: Instructor Clarence Brown (Pre-College University) leads a session for interns during the Mentors for Environmental Scholars Boot Camp. Also in attendance are Melinda Downing and Denise Freeman, with LM, and guest intern Dana Freeman. Left: Melinda Downing and Denise Freeman with 18 interns from DOE's Mentors for Environmental Scholars Program (MES) and instructor Clarence Brown (Pre-College University) during the MES Boot Camp orientation.

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Grand Junction Outdoor Recreation Business Park Opens on Former Uranium Mill Site

On March 30, 2018, approximately 120 people gathered a stone's throw from the Colorado River on a former uranium mill site to celebrate the groundbreaking of a 15-acre business park catering to outdoor-recreation companies.

Jodi Niernberg, co-chair of the Grand Junction, Colorado, Downtown Development Authority, summed-up the appeal: "Very few cities are lucky enough to have a river flowing through the middle of it."

The business park, described as "Google-like" by the master of ceremonies, is the most-recent amenity slated for the 130 acres of restored riverfront of Las Colonias Park. An amphitheater with seating for 400 opened in 2017. Future park features could include a boat launch, dog park, and butterfly-shaped lake for stand-up paddle boarding.

The \$30 million public/private project is called Riverfront at Las Colonias Park. Anchor tenant is Bonsai Design, which designs and installs aerial adventures such as sky-bridges, canopy tours, and zip lines.

Speakers at the groundbreaking included several elected officials. "The dedication we have in our state to outdoor recreation is just growing and growing," said Michael Bennet, U.S. Senator for Colorado. Scott Tipton, U.S. Representative for Colorado's 3rd Congressional District, cited the riverfront development as a positive example of the "transformation of the community." Colorado Lieutenant Governor Donna Lynne lauded the area's

skiing, hiking, and mountain biking as "some of the best examples of what Colorado has to offer."

Las Colonias is Spanish for "the colonies" and references the neighborhood of sugar beet farm workers who lived and worked in the area in the early 20th century. In 1950, the Climax Uranium Company converted the sugar beet mill to a vanadium and uranium mill, which produced 2.2 million tons of radioactive tailings until its closure in 1970. Many of those tailings were hauled away by homeowners and contractors to use as and in concrete and mortar.

The mill eventually qualified for remedial action under Title I of the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978. Surface remediation of the mill site and more than 4,000 nearby contaminated properties began in the mid-1980s and was completed in 1998. Contaminated materials were sent to the Grand Junction disposal cell.



Mark Kautsky, acting Grand Junction site manager for the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management (LM), told the audience he witnessed the evolution of contamination, clean-up, and beneficial reuse of the riverfront since 1984. Citing the DOE's longstanding role in remediation and monitoring of the area, "We're looking forward to continuing our mission of protecting human health," he said. ❖



Left: Dignitaries invited to turn a ceremonial shovel of soil at the March 30 Riverfront at Las Colonias Park Groundbreaking Ceremony included Mark Kautsky with LM (second from right), local business leaders, Grand Junction City Councilors, and Colorado Lieutenant Governor Donna Lynne (third from left), U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet (left), and Congressman Scott Tipton (seventh from right). Right: Mark Kautsky, acting Grand Junction site manager for LM, addressed the crowd at the Riverfront at Las Colonias Park Groundbreaking Ceremony.



Butterfly Garden Dedication



Newly dedicated butterfly garden at Andrew's Academy.

Andrews Academy, a private elementary school with branches located in the Greater St. Louis area, invited the staff of the Weldon Spring, Missouri, Site to participate in the dedication of its newly constructed butterfly garden at the school's Lake St. Louis location. The dedication ceremony took place May 16, 2018.

Less than a year before the event, Andrews Academy's second-grade class visited the Weldon Spring Site Interpretive Center to learn about the site's prairie habitat and the butterflies that inhabit it. Lessons learned from the field trip on land restoration and the importance of pollinator habitat inspired the class to create its own school-based habitat to help students learn more about these amazing creatures. The class consulted with representatives from the Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House and the Lake Saint Louis Garden Center for help designing the garden and purchasing plants. The garden was designed to address monarch butterfly population decline. The students incorporated native plants and achieved certification as an official Monarch Waystation—an accolade provided by Monarch Watch, a conservation program dedicated to the preservation and restoration of butterfly habitats.

The garden honors a kindergarten classmate who passed away earlier in the school year. The new space provides a peaceful reflection area dedicated to the memory of their classmate, including a plaque with his name on a bench built by the scouts.

The dedication ceremony began in the school's gym with students, teachers, and family members in attendance. First, the second-grade students passed around a microphone to share why and how they came up with this special project. The class then sang a song written especially for the occasion. Next, the kindergarten class took the stage and each student participated in the reading of a poem.

The students shared the folklore belief that setting a butterfly free helps make a wish come true. The organizing teachers—Shannon Blankenburg, Ashley Huttegger, and Brittaney Caweron—announced that each attendee would be given a living

painted lady butterfly in a box in order to enact the folklore tradition. Everyone proceeded to the garden. All of the students surrounded the garden as the parents looked on. At the ring of a bell the butterflies were released, causing the sky to come alive with the fluttering of wings.

The students' hand-painted stones decorate the garden's border, along with a large stone signifying the second-grade class and the year of dedication. Repurposed materials from playground equipment were used to frame a raised garden bed. A cast-iron, butterfly-shaped bench sits next to the memorial plaque-adorned bench.

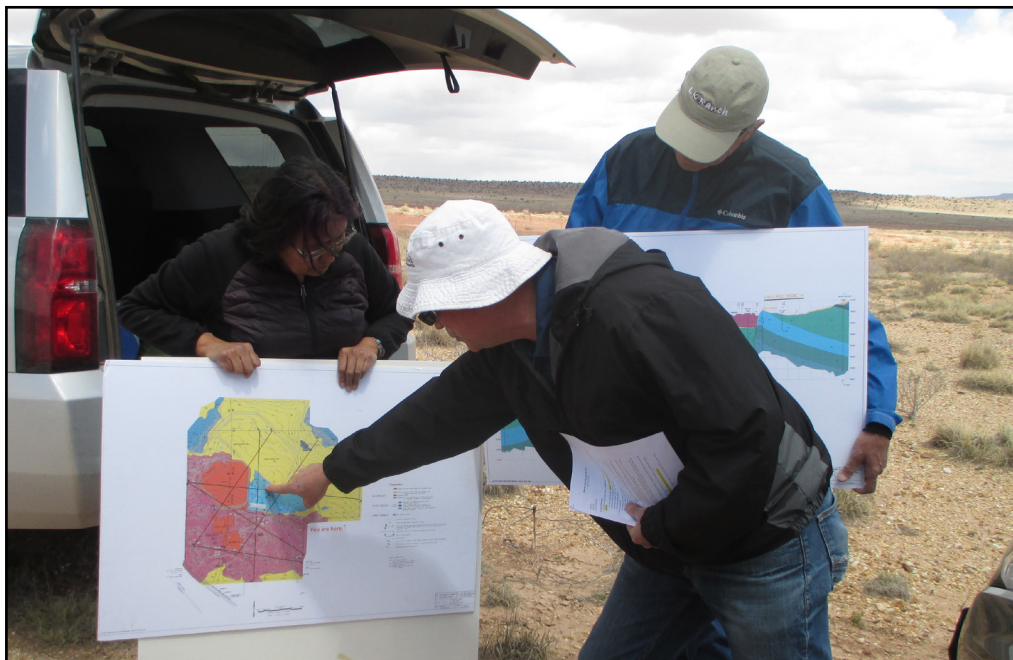
The event was a wonderful experience to keep alive the memory of their departed classmate. The staff of the Weldon Spring site was honored to participate. ❖



Students, parents, and invited guests celebrate the new butterfly garden by releasing painted lady butterflies while making wishes.



LM Meets with Environmental Groups Regarding the Bluewater Site



Dick Johnson (LM Support contractor) delivers a presentation at the Bluewater, New Mexico, Disposal Site.



Bernadette Tsosie (LM) leads a presentation at the BVDA and MASE meeting.

In February 2018, the Bluewater Valley Downstream Alliance (BVDA) and the Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment (MASE) requested a presentation from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM). On April 20, 2018, LM staff met with BVDA and MASE to address their concerns about movement of the chemical plumes from the Bluewater, New Mexico, Disposal Site and the Homestake Mine.

About 20 stakeholders participated in a field trip to the Bluewater site followed by a presentation. The field visit explained the complex geological layout of the site.

BVDA was especially interested in identifying the responsible party for aquifer cleanup. During the presentation, LM stressed that monitoring, maintenance, and emergency measures are the Department's primary areas of responsibility. DOE indicated there are options for obtaining uncontaminated water in the area, including alternate water supplies and using domestic wells for agricultural uses. The community currently has an alternate water supply, but has expressed frustration at having to pay for water. Stakeholders also feel that they have been affected by lost property values.

A lively exchange during the question and answer session resulted in plans for keeping communication channels open and active in the future. LM representatives also plan to return to the Grants area in the fall of 2018 to provide stakeholders with updates on hydrologic plume mapping. ❖



New Mound Cold War Discovery Center Opens for Visitors



Ribbon cutting opening of the new Mound Cold War Discovery Center. (L-R) Susan Smiley, LM Mound site manager; U.S. Congressman Mike Turner; Brady Kress, president and CEO of Dayton History; Paul Lamberger, vice president of Mound Science and Energy Museum Association; Dick Church, mayor of Miamisburg, Ohio; Douglas Little, DOE deputy assistant secretary for Intergovernmental and External Affairs; Gwen Hooten, LM team leader; Mike Leesman, chair of the Board of Trustees for Dayton History; Eric Cluxton, president of Mound Development Corporation.

The Mound Cold War Discovery Center (MCWDC) opened officially with a ribbon cutting on April 23, 2018, followed by a visit from U.S. Department of Energy Office (DOE) of Legacy Management (LM) Director Carmelo Melendez on May 17.

LM worked closely with Dayton History, Mound Science and Energy Museum Association volunteers, and the Mound Development Corporation over a three-year period to create the new interpretive center.

The MCWDC mission is to preserve the history of the former Mound Laboratory (1949 to 2003) by educating the public about the site's significant contributions to national security and space exploration after World War II through the end of the Cold War. The site was the nation's first permanent atomic energy facility. It grew to employ approximately 2,500 people, who worked in 116 buildings spread across 306 acres during peak operations at the laboratory. Research conducted on the site contributed to the development of the nation's nuclear arsenal as well as nuclear-fueled batteries used in space exploration.

During approximately 50 years of operation, employees were not permitted to discuss the formerly classified research that was carried out at the Mound site. Now the public can visit the MCWDC to learn about the important scientific work done by

thousands of former site employees. The MCWDC is designed to appeal to all ages with interesting visual displays, multimedia kiosks, and hands-on exhibits.

The MCWDC is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday, at 1075 Mound Road, Miamisburg, Ohio, 45324.

To learn more about the MCWDC, visit:

<https://www.daytonhistory.org/visit/dayton-history-sites/mound-cold-war-discovery-center/>. ❖



Mound Cold War Discovery Center staff demonstrates a display. (L-R) Mandy Askins, site manager; Zachry Custenborder, education and curatorial assistant; Susan Smiley, LM Mound site manager; and Carmelo Melendez, LM director.



LM Continues Transition to Digital Government

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) continues to modernize its records management policies and practices as it transitions to a digital workplace.

The Presidential Memorandum *Managing Government Records Directive* (M-12-18) identifies central goals for developing a framework for modern records management practices. The directive's stated goal, "Require Electronic Recordkeeping to Ensure Transparency, Efficiency, and Accountability," serves to promote openness and reduce long-term costs by transitioning to a digital government.

LM has already implemented part of this goal with the Capstone approach for managing email records, as recommended by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Under Capstone, all email messages sent or received by LM personnel and support staff are maintained as records in the LM Capstone repository for seven years. Email accounts of LM senior officials formally designated as Capstone officials are permanent records that will eventually be transferred to NARA.

To fully comply with this directive, LM is assessing its permanent records holdings. Beginning

January 1, 2023, NARA will only accept transfers of permanent records in electronic format and with appropriate metadata. This applies to all records regardless of whether or not they were born electronic. However, NARA will accept early transfers of physical format records and will not require these to be sent electronically.

LM analyzed more than 10,000 boxes of permanent LM records stored at Federal Records Centers and the LM Business Center Records Storage Facility and identified 4,500 boxes that are

eligible under the early transfer guidance NARA provided. Thanks to its efforts at identifying early transfer records, LM will not incur significant costs in digitizing and electronically transferring these records.

"By reviewing our permanent records schedules and identifying the physical records eligible for the NARA early transfer, LM and taxpayers avoided a digitization cost of approximately \$2,025,000," said Michael Garrett, a program analyst with the Archives and Information Management Team.

LM continues to be proactive to ensure records are appropriately scheduled and continue to meet DOE's evolving information management needs. ❖



Records at the LM Business Center Records Storage Facility are analyzed for possible early transfer to the National Archives and Records Administration.



LM NEWS Feed

Visit <https://energy.gov/lm/listings/lm-news> to access these articles in the LM NEWS Feed.

JUNE 19, 2018

LM Meets with Prominent Leaders to Address Uranium Contamination on the Navajo Nation

Town hall meeting held in Cameron, Arizona, to discuss uranium-related issues within the Navajo Nation.

JUNE 12, 2018

LM Article Published in Medical Journal

Article regarding establishing RAD screening levels for Defense-Related Uranium Mine Sites published in Health Physics medical journal.

MAY 11, 2018

Manhattan Project “Secret Cities” Revealed through Museum Exhibit

DOE personnel celebrate the opening of Secret Cities: The Architecture and Planning of the Manhattan Project exhibit.

MAY 11, 2018

LM Acquires Office Building in Grand Junction, Colorado

The U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management in Grand Junction, Colorado, acquired an 18,900-square-foot building on April 11, 2018.

APRIL 26, 2018

LM Director Shares DOE’s Commitment to Environmental Justice at Conference

LM Director Carmelo Melendez’s remarks to the 2018 National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program on April 26, 2018.

APRIL 23, 2018

Canadian Delegation Attends Annual Site Inspection of the Hallam Site

A group of Canadian representatives attended the annual inspection of the Hallam Decommissioned Reactor Site in Hallam, Nebraska.

APRIL 4, 2018

Ceremony Breaks Ground for New Business Park in Grand Junction, Colorado

LM employee speaks during ceremony to open Las Colonias Business Park at former processing site.

APRIL 4, 2018

Educational Collaboration Strengthens STEM Curriculum for College Students

LM support contractor serves as guest instructor at Diné College in Arizona.

Anticipated LM Sites Through Fiscal Year (FY) 2025



Check out our new tribal collaboration webpage at <https://www.energy.gov/lm/programs-and-services/tribal-collaboration>

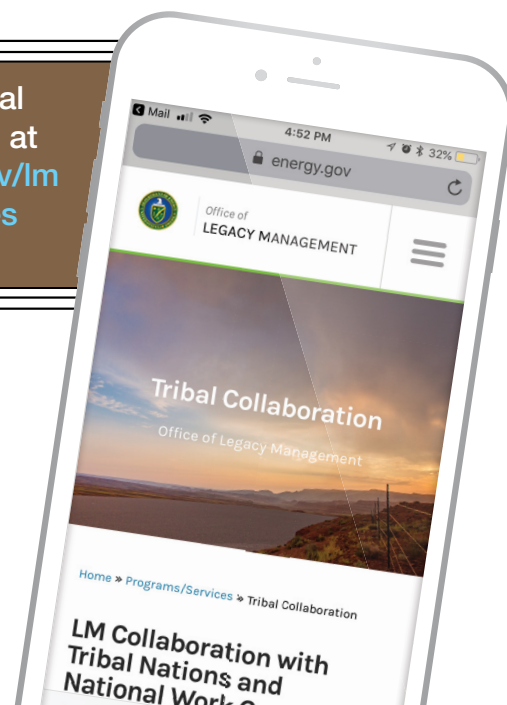
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